with directed the other seven in milatary [sic] fashion to film me. The young activist's video footage showed the security guard on the phone telling police, "They're not doing anything. They're pa... out leaflets. You should get over here though."

Squad cars arrived. Police questioned us. More squad cars a... rived. The police sat us on the grass, like parents who were ab... to discipline bickering children but must first decide who did wh... to whom. They confiscated the leaflets. One cop with aviator glasses looked at a leaflet, tilted his head down and peered at... over the gold rim of his sunglasses. The Mercedes, BMW and Lex... SUVs driving by slowed down to a crawl and rubbernecked at... young group surrounded by police. One woman with big hair, a s... ver sedan and a low-cut tank top lowered her window and leane... out. "Officer! Officer!" She flapped a leaflet at him. "I thought y... might need this," she said. "As evidence."

"Thanks, ma'am. We have the situation under control."

A few of the detainees peppered the cops with questions. W... were we being detained? What did we do wrong? If we were putting up fliers for a landscaping service, would we have been stopp... One cop said that this executive's house had been vandalized months before. He said we might have been the ones who did it.

Everyone laughed. I sat cross-legged, picking at the ground be... tween my legs, and I could not help but laugh, too. Why would any... one vandalize someone's home and then return to pass out leaflets?

The cops walked over to Al the Security Guard and talked fo... a few minutes. When they came back, they said we were being a... rested. They would not say what the charge was, and they would... tell us what we had done wrong. We were handcuffed, divided in... squad cars, and taken to the police station. Most of the group was... good spirits, because we all assumed the bogus charges would... get thrown out in court. At the station, the officers took mug sh... and asked if we had tattoos.

Kim Berardi, wearing a sleeveless shirt exposing a tattoo ...